

Application No. 10/642,891
Non-Compliant Amendment dated April 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 14, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous listings in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn). Concrete article, characterised by the fact that the concrete article contains a concrete thickener comprising the following components:
 - a) about 20 to about 40% by weight, of at least one thickening agent;
 - b) about 20 to about 40% by weight, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and
 - c) remainder water.
2. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the thickening agent is an organic or inorganic polymer.
3. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 2, wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of ~~a~~ polyacrylates, ~~a~~ polymethacrylates, ~~a~~ polyurethanes, ~~an~~ alginates, ~~a~~ polyoses, ~~a~~ cellulose derivatives, ~~a~~ polycarboxylic acids, ~~a~~ polyethers, ~~a~~ polyimines, ~~a~~ polyamides, ~~a~~ silicic acid derivatives, ~~a~~ zeolite and/or combinations thereof; polyacrylates, polyurethanes, cellulose derivatives and silicic acid derivatives being preferred.
4. (Currently Amended) The process ~~of as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener mixture is present in added into the concrete article mixture in a proportion of about 0.01 to about 2.0% by weight, preferably about 0.04 to about 1.0% by weight.
5. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the hydrophobing additive is selected from the group consisting of ~~a~~ silanes, ~~a~~

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siloxanes, a silicones, a siliconates, a fluorosilicates, a hydrosilanes, a fatty acids and their salts or salt thereof, a waxes, an acrylic resins, an epoxy resins, a polyurethane resins, a sodium silicates (alkali silicates), a silicic acid esters and/or combinations thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener further comprises dyes, water-soluble polymers, polymer dispersions, surface-active substances or mixtures thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 11, wherein the concrete article contains further concrete admixtures, such as concrete additives and/or concrete addition agents.
8. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of Claim 7, wherein the concrete additives are selected from the group consisting of concrete liquefiers, fluxes, air pore forming materials, sealing agents, retarders, accelerators, injection aids, stabilisers, chromate reducers, recycling aids for washing water and/or combinations thereof, and the concrete addition agents are selected from the group consisting of trass, powdered stone, coal flue dust, silica dust, pigments and/or combinations thereof.
9. (Withdrawn). The process as claimed in Claim 11, wherein a water/cement ratio of about 0.3 to about 0.5 preferably about 0.4.
10. (Withdrawn). The concrete article as claimed in Claim 1, produced in a vibration-compaction process.
11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a concrete article, mixture, comprising the following steps:

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- i.) mixing cement, binder, grains of stone and make-up water, in a mixer; and
 - ii.) subsequently adding a concrete thickener to the mixture to the concrete mixture from step i.), the concrete thickener mixture formulated by a process comprising the following components steps:
 - a) adding about 20 to about 40% by weight, of at least one thickening agent effective to thicken said concrete mixture;
 - b) adding about 20 to about 40% by weight, of at least one hydrophobing additive effective to create hydrophobic character in said concrete mixture; and
 - c) adding a remainder water.
12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 11, characterised by wherein the concrete thickener mixture is added into the mixer via by an evacuation pump and a spray nozzle.
13. (Withdrawn). A concrete thickener, especially one for thickening a concrete article, which comprises the following components:
 - a) about 20 to about 40% by weight, of at least one thickening agent;
 - b) about 20 to about 40% by weight, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and
 - c) remainder water.
14. (Withdrawn). The concrete thickener as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the fact that the thickening agent is an organic or inorganic polymer.
15. (Withdrawn). The concrete thickener as claimed in claim 14, the fact that the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, alginates, polyoses, cellulose derivatives,

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polycarboxylic acids, polyethers, polyimines, polyamides, silicic acid derivatives, zeolites and/or combinations thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener comprises about 30% by weight of at least one thickening agent.
17. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener comprises about 30% by weight of at least one hydrophobing additive.
18. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 2, wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polyurethanes, cellulose derivatives and silicic acid derivatives.
19. (New) The process of claim 11, additionally comprising the steps of:
 - (i) forming a concrete article; and
 - (ii) curing said concrete article.
20. (New) A concrete article resulting from the process of claim 19, wherein said concrete article has a water/cement ratio of about 0.3 to about 0.5.
21. (New) The concrete article of claim 20, wherein said article has a water/cement ratio of about 0.5.
22. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the concrete thickener mixture is added into the concrete mixture in a proportion of about 0.04 to about 1.0% by weight.